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and Great Horned Owl, which begin their courtships as early as February, choose their eyries, and the former commences incubation. Blue Birds frequently pair before the end of the month, and taking possession of breeding boxes or holes in trees, guard them carefully against intruders.—J. A. A.

The Robins often lay the eggs for their first brood in March, in the vicinity of Salem.—EDS.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, *Boston. Jan. 8, 1867.* The following papers were read:

Thermogenesis, or Theory of Temperature, by Dr. J. D. Whelpey, of Boston.

The Object and Method of Mineralogy, by T. Sterry Hunt, of Montreal, Canada.

On the Inequalities produced in the Moon's Motion by the Secular Variation in the position of the Ecliptic, by G. W. Hill, of Cambridge.

ESSEX INSTITUTE, *Salem. Jan. 7, 1867.*—The following paper was presented:

A Catalogue of the Birds of North America contained in the Museum of the Essex Institute, with which is incorporated a List of the Birds of New England, with brief critical notes, by Elliott Coues, M. D., U. S. A.

Mr. C. Cooke made some remarks on the Sea Coco (*Lodoicea sechellarum*); and Mr. E. Bicknell exhibited sections, mounted for the microscope, of the poison fangs of the Rattlesnake.

ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, *Chicago. Annual Meeting, Jan. 8, 1867.*—Dr. William Stimpson was appointed Director of the Museum, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Major R. Kennicott.

The President, Geo. C. Walker, Esq., delivered his annual address.

The Secretary then submitted his annual report.

The following resolutions were passed:

WHEREAS, The appropriation for the Illinois General Survey has been too small to allow of a sufficiently rapid examination:

Resolved, That this Academy desires to express its sense of the great importance of this work, and its hope that the appropriation will be increased to a degree that will carry on the State Survey with a greater rapidity than heretofore.

Resolved, That our Representatives in the General Assembly be respectfully requested to favor the increase of the appropriation.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY. *January 2, 1867.*—Mr. Horace Mann exhibited a large panoramic photograph of the crater on the summit of Haleakala, the mountain of East Maui, Hawaiian Is-

lands. This crater is situated on the summit of Haleakala, its rim being at the average elevation of 10,000 feet above the sea. Its depth is about 2,000 feet, and the comparatively level plain which forms its floor, therefore, at an elevation of 8,000 feet. The whole circumference of the crater is thirty or thirty-five miles, it being one of the largest in the world.

Mr. Winwood Reade, of England, who was present as a visitor, read to the Society a paper upon the habits of the Gorilla, the result of his personal investigation in the Gaboon region.

Section of Entomology, Jan. 23.—Mr. Scudder remarked on a small collection of fossil insects obtained by Prof. William Denton, in the Tertiary, probably Miocene, beds of Green River, near the boundary line of Colorado and Utah Territories. The number of species amounts to about fifty, though they are so imperfectly preserved as to be difficult, if not impossible, to identify.

The most abundant forms are Diptera, and they comprise indeed two-thirds of the whole number, either in the larval or imago state; the others are mostly very minute Coleoptera, and there are besides several Homoptera, minute parasitic Hymenoptera, *Pteromali*, a *Myrmica*, a moth, and a larva, apparently allied to that of *Limacodes*.

The perfect Diptera are mostly small species of Mycetophilidæ and Tipulidæ. There are besides some which are apparently Muscidæ. Among the larvæ are those of Muscidæ, together with other larvæ belonging to species of which the adults are not represented on these stones. The Homoptera belong to genera allied to Issus, Gypona, Delphax and some of the Tettigonidæ. The collection does not agree, in the aggregation of species, with any of the insect beds of Europe, or with the insects of the amber fauna on the shores of the Baltic.

A paper was also read *On Monstrosities observed in the wings of Lepidopterous Insects, and on the method of producing them artificially*, by L. Trouvelot.

ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY *Bloomington, Annual Meeting, December 19, 1866.* The following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the corresponding secretary and the general commissioner be instructed to correspond and confer with the principals and professors of natural science of the various schools and colleges in the state, with naturalists and friends of natural science, with a view to the organization of local auxiliary societies, to the securing of local collections and the organization of a general system of exchanges, under the supervision of the Board of Directors.

Papers were presented to the society both at the June and the present meeting, by Prof. Marcy, of the Northwestern University, Dr. Vasey, Prof. Sewall, of the State Normal University, and Dr. F. Brendel, of Peoria.—*Prairie Farmer*.

NOTE.—The Editors desire *brief minutes*, such as those given above, of *every* meeting of all the Scientific Societies in North America. A copy of the NATURALIST will be sent to each Secretary, personally, free of expense, so long as such reports are promptly sent in to this office.